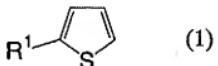


**LISTING OF CLAIMS**

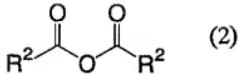
This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Please cancel claim 2 without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter set forth therein.

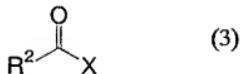
1. (Currently Amended) A process for producing a 2-acylthiophene compound comprising reacting a thiophene compound represented by formula (1):



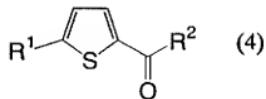
wherein R<sup>1</sup> is a hydrogen atom, a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl group, a phenyl group, or a halogen atom, with at least one member selected from the group consisting of acid anhydrides represented by formula (2):



wherein R<sup>2</sup> is a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl group or a phenyl group, and acid halides represented by formula (3):



wherein R<sup>2</sup> is defined above and X is a halogen atom, in the presence of a cation exchange resin solid acid catalyst at a temperature less than 75°C in the absence of solvent, thus producing a 2-acylthiophene compound represented by formula (4):



wherein R<sup>1</sup> and R<sup>2</sup> are as defined above.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Currently Amended) The process according to claim 1 wherein the cation exchange resin ~~solid acid catalyst~~ is used in an amount of 0.1 to 50 parts by weight per 100 parts by weight of the thiophene compound.